GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:75
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2004
PERFORMANCE OF SPORTSPERSONS/TEAMS IN ATHENS OLYMPICS
Choudhary Shri Nikhil Kumar;Shakya Shri Raghuraj Singh

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian sportspersons/teams could not perform upto the expectation in the Athens Olympics;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the performance of sportspersons in the international games?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.75 FOR 6.12.2004 REGARDING PERFORAMNCE OF SPORTSPERSONS/TEAMS IN ATHENS OLYMPICS ASKED BY SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA AND SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY

(a) to (c): During Athens Olympic Games, Indian sportsperson Major R.V.S. Rathore won a silver medal in shooting. This is the first silver medal won by an individual sportsperson since India`s independence. Over the years, the performance of Indian sportspersons in Olympics has been improving. In 1996 and 2000 India won only a bronze medal. No medal could be won in 1984 and 1988 Olympics. Moreover, during the Athens Olympic Games, 2004 in the disciplines of Archery, Shooting and Weightlifting Indian sportspersons were very close to medals and in the disciplines of Athletics they created new national records.

After Athens Olympic Games 2004, meetings with office bearers of the major National Sports Federations were held to analyze their past performance and discuss their future plan of action for achieving excellence in international events.

Government of India, in addition to providing sports infrastructure, is taking the following steps to improve the performance of sportspersons in the international games:-

i) Finalization & implementation of Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs) for various sports disciplines in consultation with the concerned National Sports Federations, former international sportspersons and sports scientists experts.
ii) Provision of equipment and scientific support to sportspersons.
iii) Intensive coaching of the players by Indian and foreign coaches in coaching camps.
iv) Intensive training abroad to the teams.
v) Financial assistance to concerned federations for participation of sportspersons in international tournaments.
vi) Assistance for purchase of equipment, scientific support and training and participation within the country and abroad under the `Scheme relating to Talent Search and Training` and the `National Sports Development Fund`.
vii) With a view to broad basing of sports and scouting for talent at a young age, the Government is assisting Army under `Army Boys Sports Company Scheme` (ABSC). In addition to eight existing ABSCs, ten more ABSCs have been sanctioned during the current year.